

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD

APPLICANT: EQUITABLE RESOURCES ENERGY COMPANY)
 A West Virginia Corporation)
)
RELIEF SOUGHT: APPLICATION TO POOL INTERESTS IN) VIRGINIA GAS AND
 THE 58.77 ACRE DRILLING UNIT DEPICTED) OIL BOARD
 IN EXHIBIT A HERETO (herein "Subject) DOCKET NO.
 Drilling Unit") PURSUANT TO VA. CODE) VGOB 97-0916-0604
 §§ 45.1-361.21 AND 45.1-361.22 FOR THE)
 PRODUCTION OF OCCLUDED NATURAL)
 GAS FROM COALBEDS AND ROCK STRATA)
 ASSOCIATED THEREWITH (herein)
 collectively referred to as "Coalbed Methane)
 Gas" or "Gas"))
)
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:)
)
 DRILLING UNIT TO BE SERVED BY)
 PROPOSED WELL VC-3683)
 CLINCHFIELD COAL COMPANY TRACT T-606)
 BIG A MOUNTAIN QUADRANGLE,)
 HURRICANE DISTRICT,)
 BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA)
 (the "Subject Lands" are more particularly)
 depicted in Exhibit A attached hereto and made)
 a part hereof))

REPORT OF THE BOARD

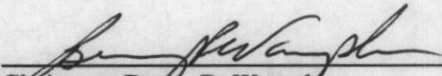
ORDER OF DISMISSAL

1. Hearing Date and Place: This matter came on for hearing before the Virginia Gas and Oil Board (hereafter "Board") at 9:00 a.m. on September 16, 1997, Dickenson Conference Center, Southwest Virginia Education 4-H Center, Abingdon, Virginia.
2. Appearances: James E. Kaiser of the firm Wilhoit & Kaiser, appeared for the Applicant.
3. Jurisdiction: Pursuant to Va. Code § 45.1-361.1 et seq., the Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the subject matter.
4. Relief Requested: Equitable Resources Energy Company's application in this matter sought to have the Board: (1) pool the rights, interests and claims of the Gas Owners or Claimants in Subject Drilling Unit for the drilling and operation, including production thereof, from the pool defined as all Pennsylvanian-aged coals from the top of the Raven, including all splits, to the top of the red and green shales including Raven, Jawbone, Upper Horsepen, Middle Horsepen, War Creek, Beckley, Lower Horsepen, Pocahontas No. 8, Pocahontas No. 4, Pocahontas No. 3, Pocahontas No. 1 and various unnamed coal seams, coalbeds and rock strata associated therewith ("Subject Formations") underlying and comprised of the lands depicted in Exhibit A hereto ("Subject Lands"); and (2) name the Applicant as the Operator of Subject Drilling Unit. At the hearing of this matter on September 16, 1997, Applicant advised the Board that it had reached voluntary agreements with all parties in interest and asked that the Applicant be permitted to withdraw its Application for the compulsory pooling of

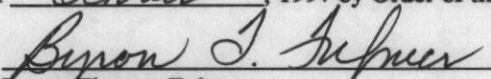
Subject Drilling Unit.

5. Relief Granted: Based upon Applicant's representation that it has reached voluntary agreements with all parties in interest, and there being no objections, the Board finds that the Application filed herein for the compulsory pooling of Subject Drilling Unit is moot, and therefore, grants without prejudice Applicant's Motion to withdraw same.

DONE AND EXECUTED this 10th day of October, 1997 by the Chairman in behalf of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board.

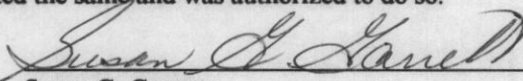

Chairman, Benny R. Wampler

DONE AND PERFORMED this 10th day of October, 1997 by Order of the Board.


Byron Thomas Fulmer
Principal Executive to the Staff
Virginia Gas and Oil Board

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA)
COUNTY OF WISE)

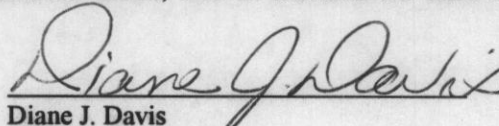
Acknowledged on this 10th day of October, 1997, personally before me a notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, appeared Benny Wampler, being duly sworn did depose and say that he is Chairman of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board, that he executed the same and was authorized to do so.


Susan G. Garrett
Notary Public

My commission expires July 31, 1998

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA)
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON)

Acknowledged on this 6th day of October, 1997, personally before me a notary public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, appeared Byron Thomas Fulmer, being duly sworn did depose and say that he is Principal Executive to the staff of the Virginia Gas and Oil Board, that he executed the same and was authorized to do so.


Diane J. Davis
Notary Public

My commission expires September 30, 2001